

The Learning Support Department

The Learning Support Department at St Richard's Catholic College works hard to identify and support all pupils with identified learning Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), across all areas of the curriculum.

We have a dedicated and friendly team which currently consists of a full-time SENCo, a Learning Support Co-ordinator, a part-time Assessor, Teaching Assistants/Year Co-ordinators, an Individual Needs Assistant and two Pastoral Assistants.

Most Teaching Assistants are subject specialists, with our current team of TAs specialising in supporting English, Maths and Science. TAs work alongside teaching staff as part of subject departments, to ensure all pupils with identified SEND can access a full and appropriate curriculum at Key Stages 3 and 4.

At present we have 107 pupils on our Special Educational Needs register, which includes 22 with Educational Health and Care Plans from September 2024. The pupils we support have a variety of needs, including those who are on the Autism Spectrum, Dyslexia, Social Emotional and Mental Health Difficulties and Physical Disabilities.

Interventions are offered on a bespoke basis for pupils who require this provision, including reading, social use of language, literacy, numeracy, handwriting and anger management. The SENCo and Learning Support Co-ordinator are based in the SEN Office, while our nurture space The Hive is used for interventions such as ELSA and individual or small-group work.

We work closely with a variety of external agencies, including Speech and Language Therapy, Occupational Therapy, CLASS, Educational Psychology, CITES, TASS and local external providers including Plumpton College, College Central and the Teaching & Learning Provision (TLP).

The SEND Department is a vital, valuable part of a successful school. There is an induction programme for new staff at all levels and an opportunity to attend a variety of training and continuing professional development opportunities.